

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 27, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, the indicated claim amendments have been made.

Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 11, 12, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, 26, 28-31 and 33-36 were pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants hereby cancel claims 9, 20 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 15, 17-19, 22, 23, 26, 28-30 and 33-36 are pending in this application with claims 1, 12, and 23 being independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 20, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Razban in view of Circello. Although Applicants disagree with this rejection, for purposes of expediting prosecution of the allowable claims, Applicants have cancelled claims 9, 20, and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Page 3 of the Office Action indicates that claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 15, 17-19, 22, 23, 26, 28-30 and 33-36 are allowed. Therefore, in view of the above indicated amendments, this application should be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: S1022.80279US00
Date: July 16, 2004
x07/27/04x